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Cassopolis antique, vintage store to close next month

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@lleaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — A Cassopolis antique and vintage store will soon be closing its doors.

Past, Presents and More, 149 S. Broadway St., Cassopolis, announced on Facebook that it will be closing its doors next month after opening in September 2021. Owner Theresa Slaski sells her own vintage finds, home décor and furniture, as well as items from various vendors at the storefront.

"Business has slowed down quite a bit," Slaski said. "We were doing pretty well when we first opened and summer is when we get most of our business but it just hasn't happened to us this year. I'm close to retirement age and I'm ready for a new chapter."

Items in the store – open from 10 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday – will be 25 percent off Thursday, Aug. 29 through Sunday, Sept. 1 and 50 percent off Thursday, Sept. 5 through Sunday, Sept. 8. Slaski said she plans on closing the store at the end of September.

A longtime collector of antiques, Slaski had been selling her finds at area antique malls and other places for several years. When the opportunity came for her to rent a space in downtown Cassopolis, she decided to take the plunge and open her own business.

"I was excited because I grew up here," she said. "I've lived here all my life and I've always been into antiques – we followed in my mother's footsteps."

While she looks forward to what

See STORE, Page A7

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Theresa Slaski opened Past, Presents and More in September 2021.

City announces lead service line inventory program

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The City of Dowagiac is making progress in its efforts to identify and plan to replace lead service lines throughout the community.

Working with State and Federal agencies, the City is building an inventory of its lead service lines and developing a plan to replace them. Lead was banned in service lines and household plumbing in the mid-1980s and hundreds of communities nationwide have efforts underway to replace them.

Dowagiac is one of five communities in West Michigan – Allegan, Ionia, Saugatuck Township and Vicksburg being the others – that have recently received grants to help with efforts to abate lead in their water service lines, a problem that impacts hundreds of cities nationwide. The EPA estimates that there are currently more than 9 million lead service lines in the US.

The most recent Water Quality Report for the City of Dowagiac showed that samples collected from the Water Treatment Plant aligned with USEPA and State standards, with lead readings below their action levels. However, the last two bi-yearly tests of water in a small sample of homes, where it's gone through service lines and internal household plumbing, came back with readings of 18 parts per billion (ppb), just over the Action Alert level of 15 ppb.

The City is currently using two build a lead service line inventory:

•Members of Dowagiac's lead abatement team will be knocking on doors throughout the community Sept. 4-7, requesting brief access to homes to identify the service line materials inside the home.

•Dowagiac water customers are strongly encouraged to complete a short self-identification survey about the service line materials in their home. There's a link to the homepage of the City website.

Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh said there are three things all Dowagiac customers should know about their water.

1.There is no lead in the water supply.

"That's been verified, and details can be found in the Water Quality Report on our website," she said.

2.Not every home is impacted by the current lead Action Alert.

"That was issued based on testing in-home samples of water that had been through service lines and internal household plumbing," Sleigh said. "Clearly, many of the homes in our community were built before the 1980's lead ban, and we're one of hundreds

See ANNOUNCES, Page A7

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS

FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — After a summer away, students from across the area returned to school this week for the 2024-2025 school year.

In Dowagiac, Dowagiac Union Schools students have jumped into the new year ready to learn. First-year Superintendent Greg Blomgren began the first day of school at the bus garage seeing the drivers off. While there were a few transportation issues on the first day, Blomgren said that parents responded well as the district aims to be more transparent.

"We know how important a role that transportation and our bus drivers play," he said. "They appreciated hearing that from us but I think you kind of expect those little hiccups on the first day and we're feeling good about where things are at."

Blomgren then went to visit the high school, where the building was teeming with life once again.

"I got to see the buzz at the high school with all the kids pulling in," he said. "I was able to meet and greet the administrative team and the teachers who were passing out schedules. It looked great."

After that, Blomgren stopped by Dowagiac Middle School, where he helped students open their lockers.

"It's always a big deal for the middle school kids, just trying to figure out how to work that combination and make sure that locker will open," he said. "We were practicing some of those and I even got to help a handful of kids over there and remembered how that worked. I haven't lost it, so that was kind of fun."

Blomgren said he rounded out the school day by visiting the district's elementary schools and thanked his admin team and staff for their guidance.

"I feel very fortunate. It's been nice to work with such an experienced, veteran, knowledgeable group of leaders who make everybody look

See SCHOOL, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
After a summer away, Dowagiac Union Schools students returned to school this week for the 2024-2025 school year.

Annual Cass County Crop Walk returns Oct. 6

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASSOPOLIS — An annual fundraiser is returning to Cassopolis in October.

The annual Cass County Crop Walk will take place Sunday, Oct. 6. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the walk to begin at 2 p.m. Walkers will meet at the Cass County Council on Aging track, 60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis.

"We have only one goal: building a world where there is enough for all" is the opening mission statement of Church World Service, an organization that has been serving people in the U.S. and around the world for 78 years. For the past 36 years, Christians in Cass County have joined in a "CROP Walk" in solidarity with this mission and to raise funds for CWS programs. In the U.S. the funds are dispersed to more than 1,000 hunger fighting

See WALK, Page A7

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Judith Ann Vinnedge
Kay Ellen Stephens
Charlie Lee Johnson
Patricia Williams
Jerry Robert Timm
Jonathan Hamblin
June C. Doll
Roger A.C. Smith
Thomas Checkley
Sherry E. Hilden
Frances "Jean" Reidenbach
Betty Lou Anderson
John Mark Kelley, Sr.
Hilda Jane Afman
Peggy Anne Kirtley
Cindy Lou Ann (Goodger) Roland
Sharon Marie DeMarco (Roberts)
Ralph Vander Werf
Joseph Francis Robinson
Gary Lynn Maxam

A4, A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

My karma ran over my dogma. **A2**

Cassopolis volleyball bests Brandywine 3-1 **B1**

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email scott.novak@leaderpub.com

RFK Jr. is a nut job. Always has been a nut job. Always will be a nut job. He is just Jones-ing for a cabinet position.

24 years of military service is amazing service to the country and should not be belittled.

Kamala has had four years to fix the things she claims she wants to fix.

Trump has been married three times and convicted of hush money payments in a court of law. He was writing "reimbursement" checks to his attorney while sitting in the oval office, yet Kamala is the untrustworthy candidate?

My karma ran over my dogma.

High School fall sports needs your support..... go to a game, buy some popcorn and cheer on the team. It means so much to these kids and school spirit.

Thank you to the businesses for keeping your doors open during such a difficult road construction time on 51.

When will interest rates finally drop? We need this economy to move forward again.

If you are willing to make $1100 per month truck payments, don't complain about the cost of cigarettes and gas. Nobody in line really wants to hear it. Many of us are just trying to get by.

Vote your conscience, not Fox, not Msnbc or Cnn. Vote for honesty, truth and justice.

Should leaf burning be allowed when the smoke covers the entire highway? I would think that might be considered a hazard to driving on those roads.

Maybe, just maybe it's time to give peace a chance!

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny
83° 62°	78° 51°	76° 50°	79° 50°	84° 52°	85° 57°

DOWAGIAC CLASS OF '74 HOSTS 50TH REUNION

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Members of the Dowagiac Union High School Class of 1974 gathered from all corners of the country recently to mark the passing of 50 years since their graduation. The two-day reunion was held the weekend of August 16-17 and kicked off Friday with a golf scramble and dinner at the Elks' Lodge. The golden jubilee celebration took place Saturday at the Sister Lakes Lions Club. It featured a catered dinner followed by a short program and music and dancing in the outdoor pavilion. Among the multiple prizes awarded were those for best-dressed "seventies" guy and gal, won by Dave Moran and Pearlie Love, respectively. Organizers report a record turnout for the Saturday evening festivities.

Board of Canvassers approve Penn Township Treasurer recount request

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — The recount of the contest for the Republican nomination for Penn Township Treasurer can move forward after action Wednesday morning by the Cass County Board of Canvassers. In the vote certified by the board Aug. 13, incumbent Paul Rutherford was ahead of challenger Jodi Bucher by one vote.

Rutherford won the Aug. 6 contest with 281 votes to Bucher's 280 votes. The Cass County Board of Canvassers certified the vote on Aug. 13 and Bucher filed her request for a recount on Aug. 15. Bucher claimed that one Penn Township resident was turned away from voting due to a state software error that showed her living in a different township.

Wednesday, the Board of Canvassers heard from special county counsel Eric Doster as well as attorneys for both Rutherford and Bucher before making their decision. Board members voted unanimously to go forward with the recount and reject Rutherford's objections to it.

County Clerk/Register Monica McMichael said that the recount will take place soon and will be open to the public. She said the county has to wait for the deadline to pass for recount requests for state level races before scheduling the recount. The state certified state level races on Monday, Aug. 26.

Doster started off Wednesday's hearing with a review of the specifics of the case as well as relevant state law and court cases. His practice is based in Okemos near Lansing and his specialty is election law. He was the lead attorney for Donald Trump during the 2016 Michigan recount brought by candidate Jill Stein.

Doster went through the objections to the recount raised by Rutherford's attorneys and presented his conclusions on each one. Rutherford's attorneys claimed Bucher's recount petition wasn't filed timely and did not provide legitimate and specific reasons for why the recount should be done.

Doster said Bucher's petition was submitted timely, noting that election law states that a recount petition must be filed within six days of the canvass of the vote being completed. He disagreed with Rutherford attorney James Fleming who said the petition had to be submitted within six days of the start of the vote canvass on Aug. 8.

McMichael explained the changes brought about by the passage of statewide election changes in 2022 which required the Board of Canvassers to delay certification until Aug. 13. The changes allow absentee voters to "cure" ballot mistakes and also allows time for overseas and military ballots to be received.

On the question of if Bucher had to provide factual information about fraud or mistakes, Doster said Rutherford's attorneys cited the Michigan Supreme Court ruling in the Trump-Stein recount case but didn't provide the full quote. He said "bare allegations" were deemed sufficient in the ruling and added that different rules apply to local versus state recounts.

Fleming had a different take on the recount request. "Holding public office is a sacred trust and unless laws are followed to a 'T', that trust crumbles," he said. "You have to follow the law."

He continued to maintain that Bucher's recount request was not submitted in a timely manner and questioned the Board of Canvassers decision to not certify the results on Aug. 8 but wait to Aug. 13. He added that Rutherford had not been informed of the reasons for the delay in vote certification that McMichael outlined Wednesday.

He also said Bucher didn't supply facts to go along with her claims of fraud or mistakes. "Her petition was void of substantive allegations and doesn't warrant conducting a recount," he said.

Bucher attorney Jeffrey Wiggins agreed with Fleming's statement about the importance of public trust in elections but added that part of preserving public trust in elections involves preserving people's right to vote and have their vote counted.

He said the only requirements to have a recount is to file a petition timely, state what office results should be recounted and swearing under oath that the petitioner believes that fraud or mistakes have taken place.

"One vote is as close as you can get without tying," Wiggins said. "You only have to say that you believe that a mistake or fraud has taken place and you've been aggrieved by it ... A person has a legal right to a recount."

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Motorcyclist injured in Jefferson Township crash

STAFF REPORT

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP — A Three Rivers man was injured after his motorcycle crashed into a vehicle Tuesday in Jefferson Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Richard J. Behnke reports that at approximately 2:55 p.m. Hours, deputies responded to a motorcycle-truck crash in the area of Pine Lake Street and Hess Road in Jefferson Township.

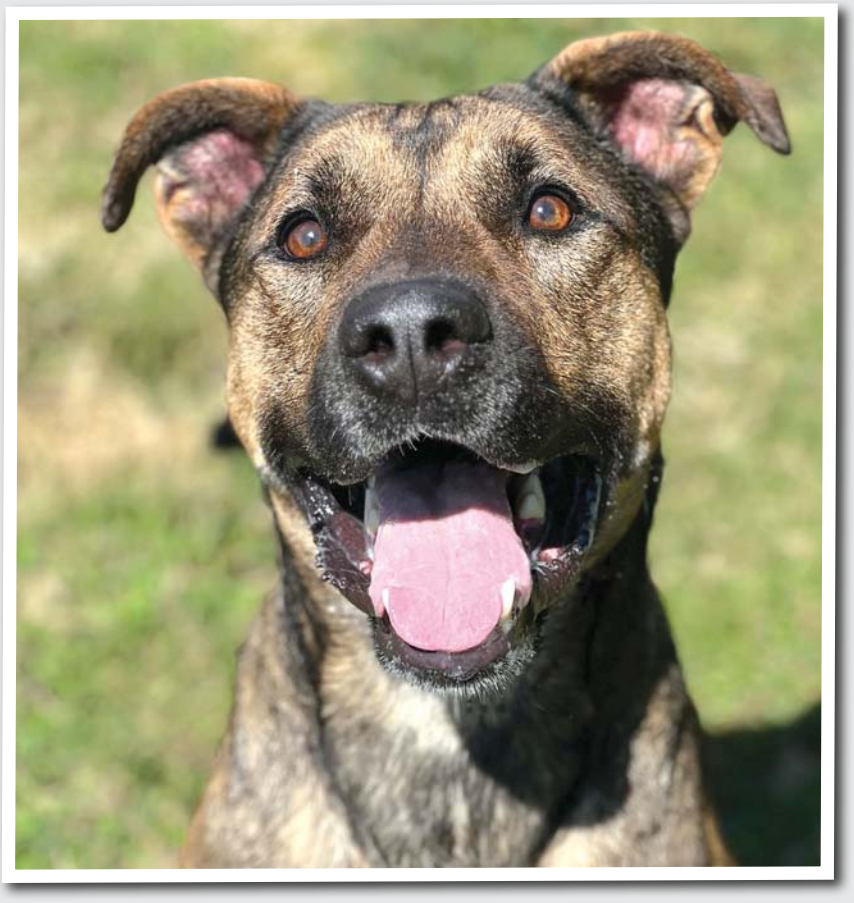
The initial investigation showed that the vehicle driven by Robert Tiser, 53, of Cassopolis, was traveling eastbound on Pine Lake Street. The Motorcycle driven by Patrick Davis, 31, of Three Rivers, was traveling northbound on Hess Road. Davis failed to stop at the stop sign and crashed into the truck on Pine Lake Street. Davis was transported by SMCAS ambulance to Memorial Hospital for injuries sustained in this crash.

Alcohol and/or drugs are not believed to be a factor in the crash. A helmet was not worn at the time of the crash.

Assisting agencies on scene were Ontwa Township Edwardsburg Police Department, SMCAS Ambulance, and Edwardsburg Fire Department.

The crash remains under investigation.

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet **Atlas**, a three-year-old German Shepherd mix with the Berrien County Animal Shelter. Volunteers said that Atlas gets along with everyone, except maybe cats. He plays well with dogs and people, but is also happy to sit alone with a toy. He loves water so would be a great buddy to take to the lake. Has done well with kids at adoption events. Volunteers couldn't think of a negative thing to say about Atlas, except he may like cats too much. He is neutered, chipped, and current on shots. Contact Berrien County Animal Shelter at (269) 927-5648.

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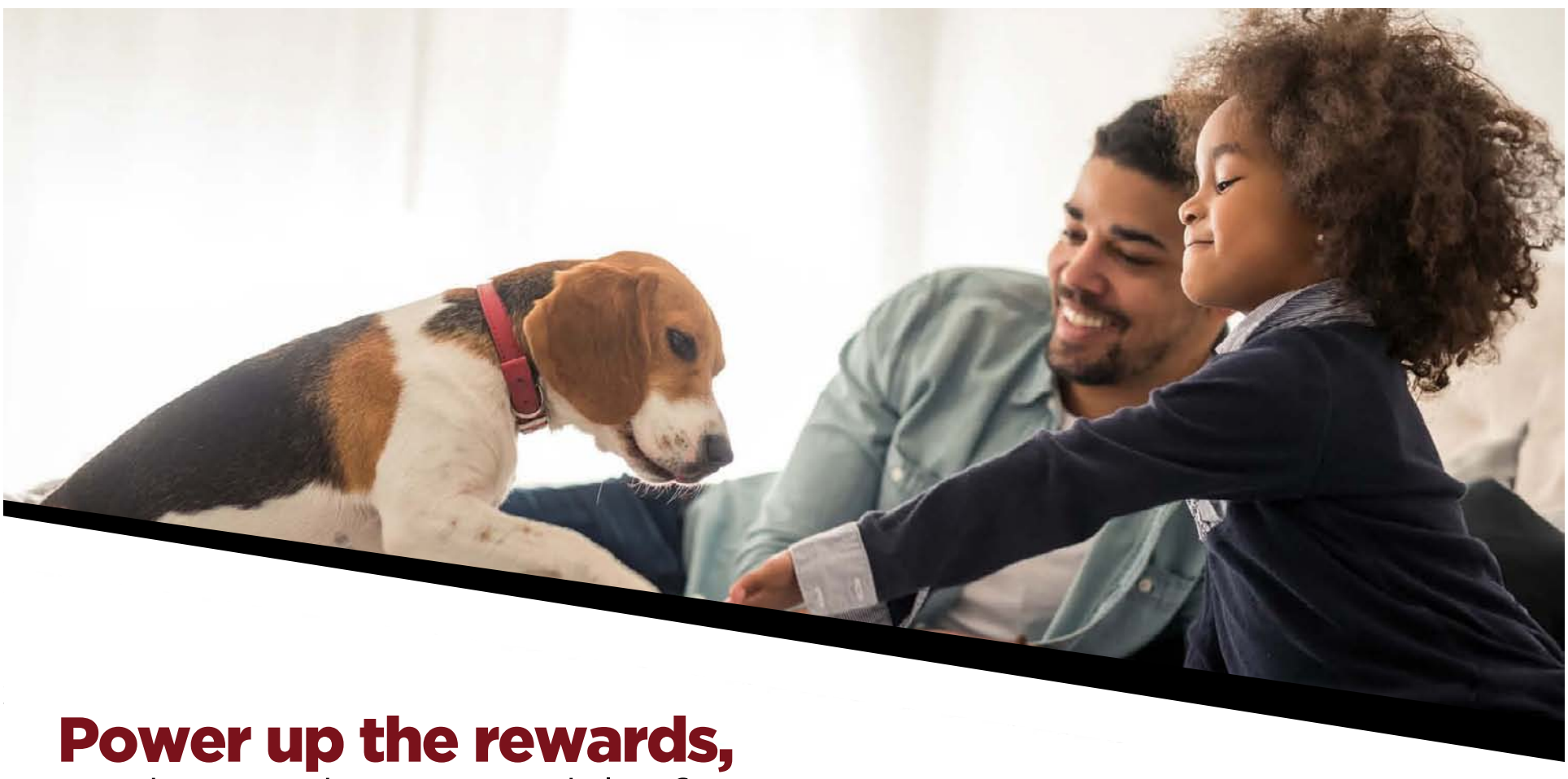

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DEATH NOTICES

Judith Ann Vinnedge, 82, passed away on Thursday, August 22, 2024, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangments have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Kay Ellen Stephens, 81, passed away on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Charlie Lee Johnson, 88, passed away on Thursday, August 22, 2024, in Stevensville, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Patricia Williams, 74, of Niles, passed away Friday, August 23, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Jerry Robert Timm, 80, passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2024, in Buchanan, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Jonathan Hamblin, 50, Formerly of Berrien County, died Thursday, August 22, 2024. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Services on September 7 4:00 at Pioneer Memorial Church. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

June C. Doll, 88, of New Carlisle, passed away on Monday, August 26, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Roger A.C. Smith, 87, of Cassopolis, died Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Arrangements are being made by Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, of Cassopolis.

Thomas Checkley, 66, of Dowagiac, died Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Arrangements are being made by Hoven Funeral Home, of Buchanan. www.hovenfunerals.com

Sherry E. Hilden, 86, of Niles, died Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

OBITUARIES

Frances "Jean" Reidenbach

April 1, 1934- August 19, 2024

Frances "Jean" Reidenbach, 90, of Niles, died peacefully with her family present, , Monday, August 19, 2024. She was born to John and Berniece Van Tuyl, in Niles on April 1, 1934. She graduated from Niles High School, class of 1952, and lived in Niles all her life.

Jean was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church as a Eucharistic Minister and served on special committees. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi and during high school she was a member of the Jeeps. Jean was previously employed by First Source Bank for five years and Simplicity Pattern Company for twenty-six years. She also worked at Joann Fabrics primarily for the discounts that fed her quilting, sewing, knitting, and crochet hobby. Jean especially loved to spend time with her family whom she loved dearly.

On June 4, 1955, she married William Thomas Reidenbach with whom she celebrated sixty-one years before he passed away in March 2017.

Jean is survived by her four sons, Mark (Gwen) Reidenbach, Matt (MaryKay) Reidenbach, Scott Reidenbach, Neal (Stacey) Reidenbach; eleven grandchildren, Jodi (Kevin) Spiegelberg, Kiel (Samantha) Reidenbach, Brian (Nandrae) Reidenbach, Emily (Tyler) Allard, Nick (Audra) Reidenbach, Dan (Nicole) Reidenbach, Andrea Reidenbach, Mollie Reidenbach, Hannah (Dan) Dalton, Kristen (Jake) Kierzek, Kate (Mitchell) Roberts; and thirteen great grandchildren.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband William Thomas Reidenbach; parents John and Bernice Van Tuyl; brother, Richard Van Tuyl; sister Barbara Hesser; and her daughter-in-law, Valerie.

Family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 27, 2024, with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m., in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 28, 2024, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 219 South State Street, Niles, with burial to immediately follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com

Betty Lou Anderson

September 11, 1944 - August 23, 2024

Betty Lou Anderson, 79, of Cassopolis died peacefully Friday, August 23, 2024 in the comfort of her family's presence.

Her life began September 11, 1944 in South Bend, Indiana the second of six children born to Ted and Mary Banicki. She married Roger L. Anderson June 26, 1965 in Niles, Michigan.

Betty's love and passion was church and family, as they were her focus. She had the gift of service and she was happiest doing for others. She was an amazing homemaker. Her forte was baking. She enjoyed baking sweets mostly and her cookies will be missed. She was an avid reader and talented seamstress. Betty and Roger enjoyed wintering in Florida and camping in the UP during the summer.

Betty will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of fifty-nine years, Roger Anderson of Cassopolis; two daughters, Melinda (Jeff) Steinke of Niles, Jennifer (Adam) Bauer of Cassopolis; six grandchildren, Sarah (Nick) May of Indianapolis, Indiana, Catherine Steinke of Baroda, Emily Mee of South Bend, Indiana, Riley Bauer of Niles, James Steinke of Bridgman, Zoe Bauer of Niles; one great grandson, Anderson; three sisters, Carol Morrow of Niles, Nancy (Greg) Park of Niles, Ruthie (Dave) Frank of South Bend, Indiana; two brothers, Russell Banicki of Niles, Ernie (Kathie) Banicki of Niles; and a host of nieces and nephews.

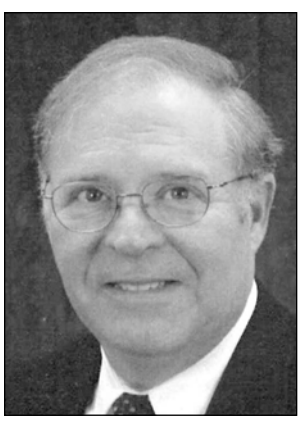
She was preceded in death by her parents.

Family and friends will gather Tuesday, September 3, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until time of memorial service at 6:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Betty will be laid to rest in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens in a private service.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Betty be made to Dailey Church, 27046 Dunning Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



John Mark Kelley, Sr.

November 20, 1956 - August 22, 2024

John Mark Kelley, Sr., 67, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Thursday, August 22, 2024 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began November 20, 1956 in Smithville, Missouri, the youngest of three sons born to Benjamin and Mary Kelley, Sr. He married Mary Gretchen Connelly Stratman January 6, 1996 in Jacksonville, Arkansas.

John loved his family and he loved helping others, including doing taxes through the Cass County Council on Aging. He served as treasurer of Cassopolis United Methodist Church. John loved meeting new people. He enjoyed classic rock and being introduced to new music. John loved to grill and his family said he was "getting better."

John will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of twenty-eight years, Mary Gretchen Kelley of Cassopolis; one daughter, Renee (Chris) Archer of Pleasant Plains, Arkansas; two sons, James (Robbie) Stratman, Jr. of Bella Vista, Arkansas, John Mark Kelley, Jr. of Pleasant Plains; ten grandchildren; one brand new great grandson; two brothers, Ben F. Kelley, Jr. of Montgomery, Alabama, Bruce (Peggy) Kelley of Batesville, Arkansas; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Benjamin Franklin Kelley, Sr.

Family and friends will gather Monday, August 26, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, concluding with a Masonic Service under the auspices of Peninsular Lodge Number 10 F. & A.M. The funeral service will be Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the funeral home with additional calling beginning at 1:00 p.m.

John will be laid to rest in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of John be made to either Cassopolis United Methodist Church, Post Office Box 175, 209 South Rowland Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, or Sam Adams Elementary School Backpack Program, in care of Michigan Gateway Foundation, 111 Days Avenue, Buchanan, Michigan 49107, Attention: Backpack Program.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Hilda Jane Afman

April 17, 1938 - August 23, 2024

Hilda Jane Afman, 86, of Three Rivers, passed away Friday, August 23, 2024 at Birch Meadows Senior Care surrounded by her loving family.

She was born April 17, 1938 in Plainwell, the daughter of William and Iola (Brown) Giesbrecht, and graduated from Plainwell High School prior to attending Bob Jones University.

Hilda married her high school sweetheart, Robert "Bob" Afman, on August 3, 1957. The two shared 64 years of marriage and enjoyed traveling together, especially to Florida.

She worked as a secretary for Cassopolis Public Schools in the transportation, administration, and middle school offices.

Hilda loved to read and to swing on her glider rocker. She shared her beautiful voice as a singer and choir leader at Volinia Baptist Church in Volinia, Mi. She was quietly mischievous and extremely competitive - a loving woman liked by many.

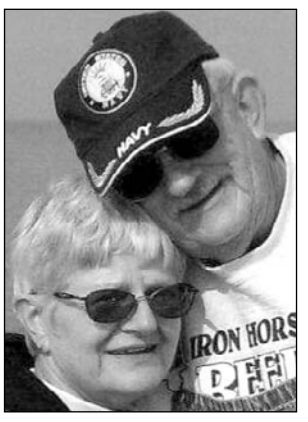
Remaining to cherish her memory are her son, Mark (Rebecca) Afman; daughters, Jane Harrison and Faith (Michael) Rowe; grandchildren, TSgt. (Ret.) Steve (Laura) Harrison, Daniel Harrison, MSG Adam (Diana) Harrison, Jacob (Ashley) Rowe, and Lindsey Johnson; great-grandchildren: MaKynna, Madisyn, Zackery, Lucy, Sam, Seth, Scott, and Hendrix Harrison, Ashleigh, Faith, Ethan, Rachel, and Samantha Johnson, and Ace Rowe; and brother, David Giesbrecht.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Joy Marie Afman; sisters, Lorraine and Maxine; and sister-in-law, Shirley Giesbrecht.

Her family will receive friends on Thursday, August 29, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Newberg, 13021 Born St., Jones. A funeral service will follow at noon at the church with Pastor Mike Owen officiating. She will be laid to rest in Poe's Cemetery.

Donations in Hilda's memory may be directed to Birch Meadows Senior Care or to the First Baptist Church of Newberg. Envelopes will be available at the church or at Hohner Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be shared at www.hohnerfh.com.



Peggy Anne Kirtley

October 22, 1946 - August 23, 2024

Peggy Anne Kirtley, 77, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Friday, August 23, 2024.

Her life began October 22, 1946 in Wolf Lake, Indiana, the youngest of three children born to James "Bud" and Dorothy Hess. She married William Philip "Bill" Kirtley September 14, 1968 in Coesse, Indiana. He preceded her in death just nine days shy of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Peggy was quiet but mighty. She was a grandma to all of her granddaughters' friends and opened her home to any one in need and taught by example. Peggy loved going for walks with the pup, Annie, and loved spending time outdoors, gardening and planting flowers. She was happy at home working on projects to surprise others with, whether it be a homemade quilt or an afghan. She looked forward to her weekly card games with the best friends, Sue Szymonski, Kelly Tony, Kath Morse, and Pam Casey.

Peggy will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Mike Bergen of Vandalia; her son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Jennifer Kirtley of Cassopolis; one granddaughter, Avery Helen Bergen of Vandalia,; one brother, Richard (Nancy) Hess of Columbia City, Indiana; one sister-in-law, Janet McAllister of Lebanon, Missouri; a chosen son, John (Laurie) Wells of Tennessee; a chosen granddaughter Sarah Bussey of Missoula, Montana and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Kenneth Hess.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. for a graveside service in Young's Prairie Cemetery, 19990 Quaker Street, Cassopolis, followed by a time of sharing memories and telling stories at the Old Vandalia School, 17397 Black Street in Vandalia.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Peggy be made to Rose Arbor Place of Centrica Care Navigators, 7100 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9423.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Cindy Lou Ann (Goodger) Roland

November 12, 1960 - August 14, 2024

Cindy Lou Ann (Goodger) Roland, aged 63 of Cassopolis, Michigan passed on August 14, 2024, at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan after her battle with cancer.

Cindy was born on November 12,1960 in Kalamazoo, Michigan to parents Joseph Leo Goodger and Katherine Geneva (Matlock) Goodger.

Cindy was an avid dancer and loved her music. She was an excellent seamstress and artist, and as she grew older, she discovered her love for PC games in her free time.

Cindy was blessed with three beautiful daughters, Virginia (Tim) Maschman of Daykin, Nebraska, Katherine Searing of Hebron, Nebraska, and Lacey Schoenbeck of Western, Nebraska.

Cindy is also mourned by her grandchildren, Jerry Duke III of Fairbury, Nebraska, Jake Weldy of Elkhart, Indiana, Lillian Searing of Fairbury, Nebraska, Miles Maschman of Daykin, Nebraska, Cora Maschman of Daykin, Nebraska, and Charley Schoenbeck of Western, Nebraska.

Cindy will be severely missed by her longtime partner, Jeff Hensley, along with friends and family.

She is survived by her mother K. Geneva Goodger of Cassopolis, Michigan, four brothers, Ron (Debbie) Goodger of Cassopolis, Michigan, Jesse Goodger of Cassopolis, Michigan, Terry (Evelyn) Goodger of Cassopolis, Michigan, Jerry Goodger of Vandalia, Michigan, two sisters, Peggy Payne (Richard Mills) of Elkhart, Indiana, and Molly (Joe) Crowell of

See OBITUARIES, Page A6

Dowagiac Daily News

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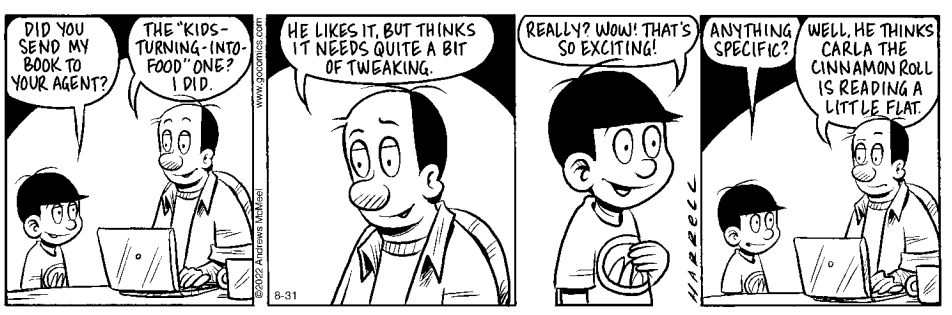
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM


DID YOU SEND MY BOOK TO YOUR AGENT?
THE "KIDS-TURNING-INTO-FOOD" ONE?
I DID.
HE LIKES IT, BUT THINKS IT NEEDS QUITE A BIT OF TWEAKING.
REALLY? WOW! THAT'S SO EXCITING!
ANYTHING SPECIFIC?
WELL, HE THINKS CARLA THE CINNAMON ROLL IS READING A LITTLE FLAT.
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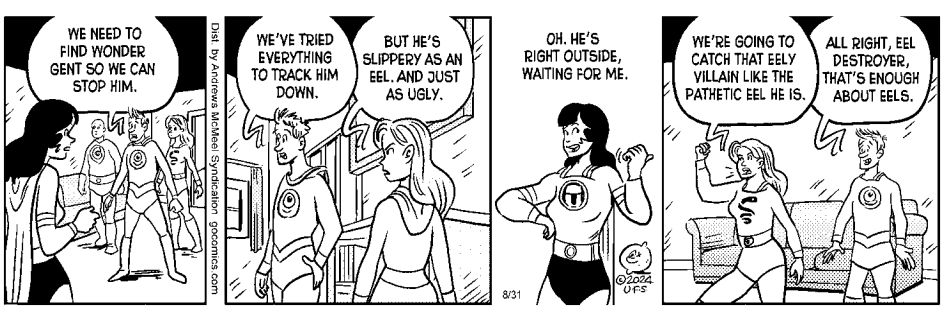
8-31

ALLEY OOP


WE NEED TO FIND WONDER GENT SO WE CAN STOP HIM.
WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO TRACK HIM DOWN.
BUT HE'S SLIPPERY AS AN EEL. AND JUST AS UGLY.
OH. HE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE, WAITING FOR ME.
WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THAT EELY VILLAIN LIKE THE PATHETIC EEL HE IS.
ALL RIGHT, EEL DESTROYER, THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT EELS.
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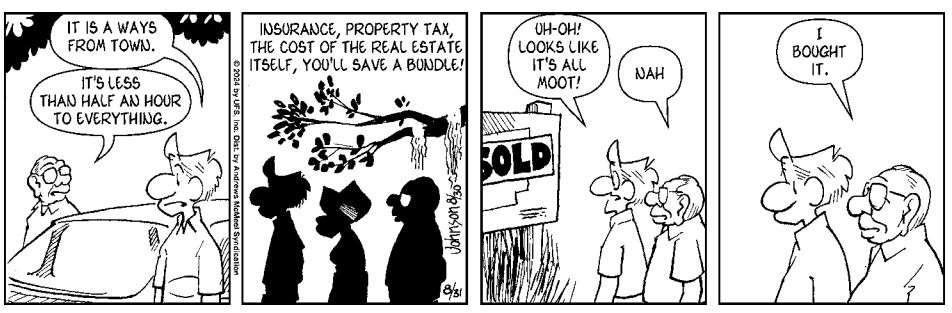
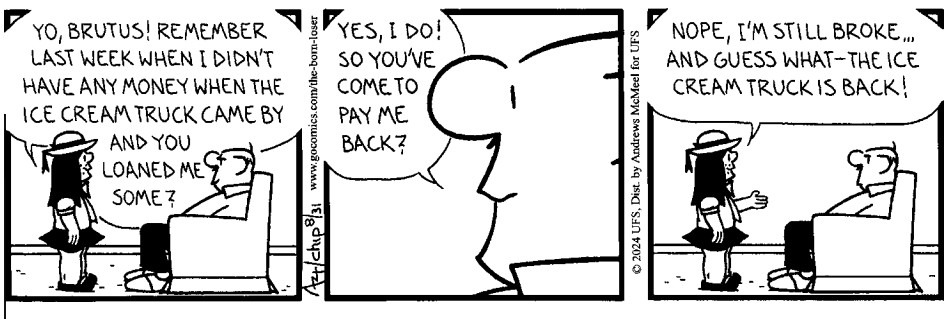
ARLO & JANIS


IT IS A WAYS FROM TOWN.
IT'S LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR TO EVERYTHING.
INSURANCE, PROPERTY TAX, THE COST OF THE REAL ESTATE ITSELF, YOU'LL SAVE A BUNDLE!
UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL MOOT!
NAH
SOLD
I BOUGHT IT.
8/31

BIG NATE

HERE'S MY UNIFORM, COACH!
...AND THIS IS FOR YOU! FOR COACHING US!
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, NATE! THANK YOU FOR THE CARD...
...AND THE MOSTLY-EATEN PACKAGE OF STARBURSTS.
I DON'T LIKE THE ORANGE ONES.
COACH
visit bignate.com

BORN LOSER


YO, BRUTUS! REMEMBER LAST WEEK WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY WHEN THE ICE CREAM TRUCK CAME BY AND YOU LOANED ME SOME?
YES, I DO! SO YOU'VE COME TO PAY ME BACK?
NOPE, I'M STILL BROKE... AND GUESS WHAT-THE ICE CREAM TRUCK IS BACK!
www.gocomics.com/the-born-loser
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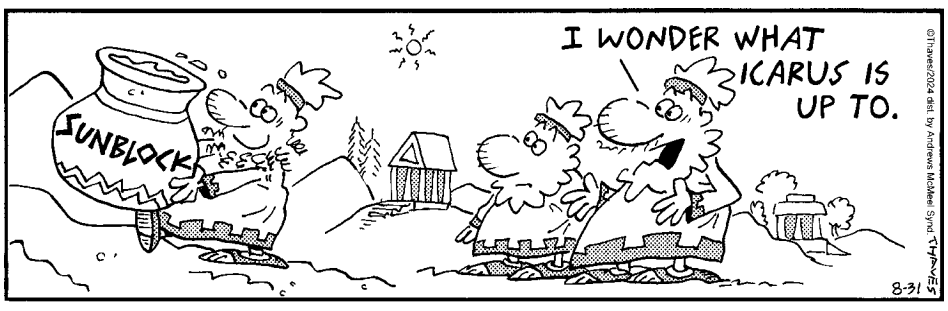
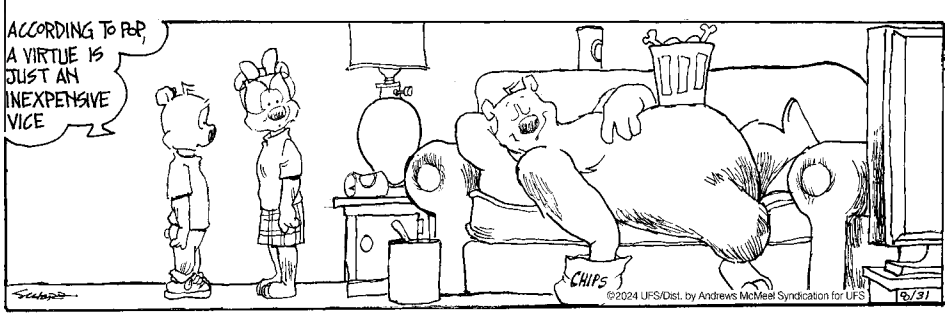
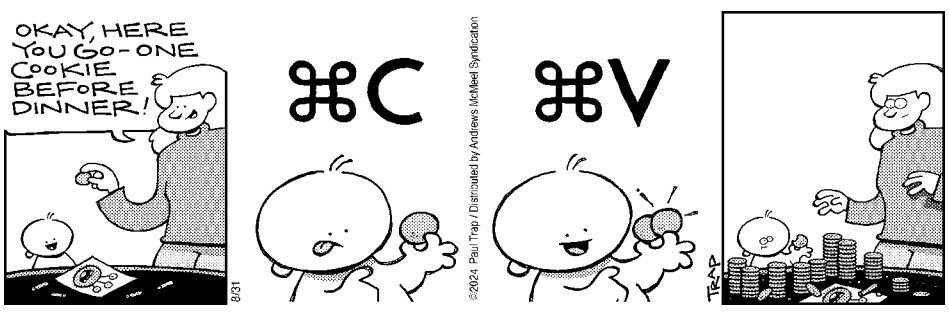
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

3	1				7		4	
		6		3	2			
				1		3	7	
1							3	
2	6			7			1	4
	3							6
	5	8		2				
			5	8		7		
	2		3				6	8

MODERATELY CONFUSED

REALITY CHECK

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

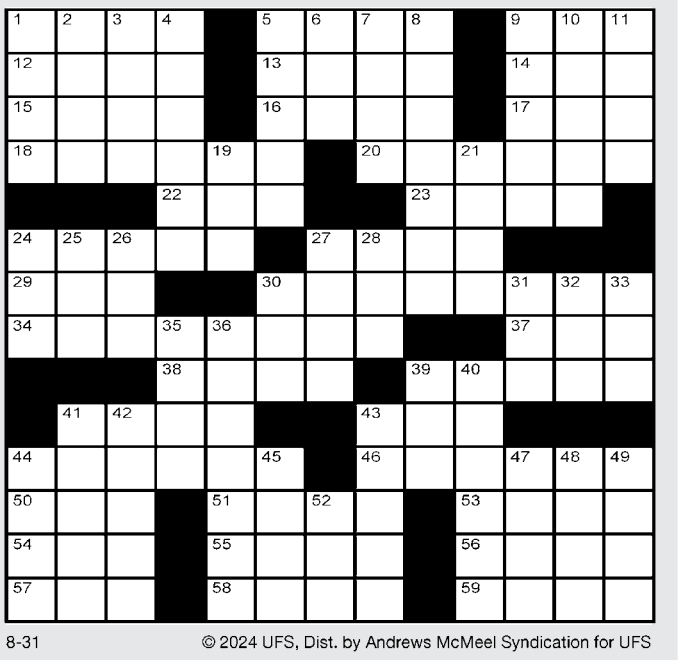
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

ACROSS

1 "— Indigo"
5 To boot
9 Genus of macaws
12 Stew pot
13 Wall Street animal
14 Seize
15 Spotted
16 Investment choice
17 Zoo denizen
18 Kind of switch
20 Miss Piggy's love
22 Put down
23 Woodwind need
24 Ancient Mexican
27 Luge
29 Ovine cry
30 Followed in secret
34 Ran
37 From — — Z
38 Interpret
39 "Call Me —"
41 Eager
43 — Antonio
44 Of the backbone
46 Mixed up
50 Melody
51 Place of eternal rest
53 Sitarist — Shankar
54 Actor — Kilmer
55 Bad
56 Regular
57 Print measures
58 Remove
59 Toad feature

DOWN

1 "The — Dangerous Game"
2 Margarine
3 Designer — Cassini
4 Hang loosely
5 Westminster —
6 MGM's lion
7 Went down
8 Commanded
9 "What's in — —?"
10 Fast
11 Help in a crime
19 Insect secretion
21 Change the decor
24 Tummy muscles
25 Microwave
26 Seaman
27 Storage building
28 Youngster
30 Depot (abbr.)
31 Soft mass
32 Letter after zeta
33 Actor — DeLuise
35 Golf club
36 Nullified
39 Angry
40 Actor — Garfield
41 Of bees
42 "— Just Want to Have Fun"
43 Costly fur
44 Rescue
45 "All You Need Is —"
47 Molten rock
48 Always
49 Force
52 Wire measure



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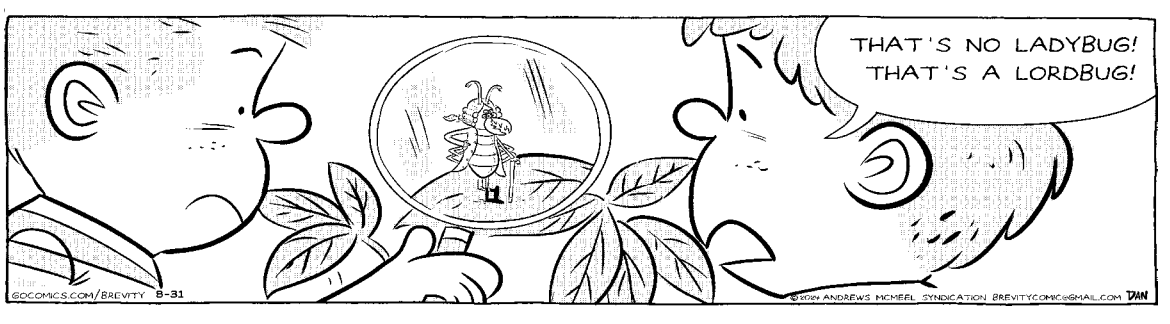
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

HELLO, HELLO! SO ANYONE HERE EVER BEEN TO A GAMING STORE? NO, I EXPECTED NOT...
HA HA
GAMING STORES HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE I WAS A KID. SO SINCE LAST YEAR.
HEE HEE
HEH HEH
8/31
YOU USED TO HAVE TO BEG TO GET SPECIAL ITEMS IN THE STORES, IT ALWAYS FELT LIKE A BOYS CLUB... BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED. NOW THERE'S FREE WI-FI!
HA HA
HA HA
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HAHA HAHA
HAAA
HEEHEE
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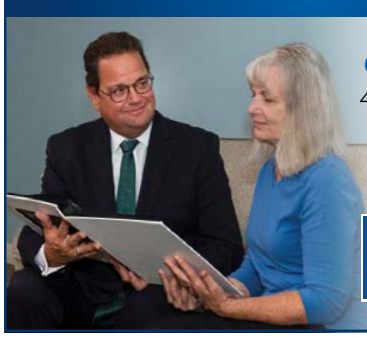
Celebrate a life

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A4

Edwardsburg, Michigan.

Cindy is preceded in death by her three husbands, Thomas Searing, Harold Carter, and James "Rick" Roland. As well as her father Joseph Leo Goodger, sister Rose (Goodger) Will, and brother Larry Goodger, and son-in-law, Adam Schoenbeck of Western, Nebraska.

There will be a graveside service at Birch Lake Cemetery 62307-62309 James Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095 on Saturday August 31st, 2024, at 10:00 am with a family reunion - memorial dinner at Calvin Township Hall 18693 Mt. Zion Street Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 at 2:00 pm.

Memorials will be directed by family's choice.

Sharon Marie DeMarco (Roberts)

February 9, 1957 - August 25, 2024

Sharon Marie DeMarco (Roberts), 67, of Valparaiso, IN, passed away August 25, 2024. Born on February 9, 1957, in Lawton, OK, Sharon was the beloved daughter of the late Jan Bakeman and granddaughter of Ellie Livingston.

Sharon graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1975 and went on to have a fulfilling career at the US Postal Service where she dedicated 37 years of service, with the last 28 years proudly serving as Postmaster in the Village of Eau Claire, MI.

Sharon was a huge fan of "I Love Lucy", playing the piano, and listening to heavy metal. She shared her passions with her family and always touted herself as the cool grandma.

Sharon was a strong, hardworking woman who, despite facing many hardships in her life, always put her loved ones needs above her own and ensured they were taken care of. She was always there to offer a cup of coffee or a swift kick in the butt to whoever needed. She will be remembered for her witty humor, her caring nature and her contagious laugh. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Sharon is survived by her loving sons, Robert Sovine (Kim Hagemann) of Decatur, MI, and Scott (Erin) Congdon Jr. of Eagle River, AK, and special daughter Leah Sovine of Dowagiac, MI. She will be dearly missed by her grandchildren Leana Allen (Derrick Caldwell) of Chicago, IL, Emma Sovine and Madelynn Sovine of Dowagiac, MI, Ethan Sovine of Cassopolis, MI, and great-grandchild Sol Caldwell of Chicago.

Friends may visit with Sharon's family from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM on Friday, August 30, 2024, at Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac. Private inurnment will be in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens. Please visit Sharon's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to her family at www.clarkch.com.

May she rest in peace.

Ralph Vander Werf

May 4, 1937 - August 24, 2024

Ralph Vander Werf, 87, of Cassopolis, passed from this life to spend eternity with Jesus Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Ralph will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Mary Jane (Crowell) Vander Werf; their five children and spouses; thirty-six grandchildren; and seventy-four great grandchildren.

Ralph desires you to know that he now resides where he has longed to go. He is in Heaven at the feet of Jesus Christ. He accepted Jesus' gift of salvation at the age of 10 when he came to understand the following message found in the book of Romans in the Bible:

We are all sinners by nature and by choice.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

We deserve death but can receive eternal life as a free gift.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God demonstrated His love for us, His enemies.

Romans 5:8 "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We must trust and surrender to Jesus as Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

If you acknowledge your need and would like to accept this gift, you can from your heart pray this prayer:

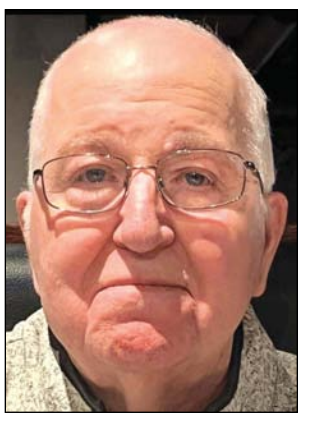
"Dear Jesus,

I know I am a sinner. I know my sin deserves to be punished. I believe Christ is the Son of God, who died for me and rose from the grave. I want to turn from my sin and trust Jesus Christ alone as my Savior. Thank you for the forgiveness and everlasting life I can now have through faith in Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Family and friends will gather from 10:00 a.m. until time of memorial service at 12:00 noon, Friday, August 30, 2024, in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Mr. Vander Werf has been laid to rest in a private service in Reames and Norton Cemetery, Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



Joseph Francis Robinson

February 24, 1947 - August 24, 2024

Joseph Francis Robinson, 77, passed away Saturday August 24th at University of Michigan Hospital with the love of his life by his side. He was a longtime resident of Lawton, Michigan having served as their Chief of Police.

Joe was born February 24th, 1947, and raised in Dowagiac, Michigan where he worked on his aunt's dairy farm and graduated from Union High School in 1965.

Shortly after high school, Joe started working at Kawneer Corporation as a project manager for commercial construction. In 1974, Joe graduated from Southwestern Michigan College with a degree in Nursing and spent many years working in the emergency departments of local hospitals eventually becoming house supervisor at Watervliet Community Hospital and as the Director of Nursing at Lakeview Hospital in Paw Paw. Joe maintained an active RN license, working part-time, through 1990.

In the late 1970's, Joe became a police officer in Van Buren County working alongside his brother Dan for 2 years. In 1980, Joe joined the Lawton Police Department and became the Chief of Police in 1984, serving in that role until his retirement in 2002.

Upon retirement, Joe and Deb moved to Jacksonville, Florida where they made many trips to Key West, St. Augustine, and Joe's favorite little wildlife park, Homosassa Springs. Joe and Deb returned to Michigan in 2012, settling just outside of Ann Arbor.

Joe had a love for sports cars, dogs, fishing, photography, the Florida Keys, and Michigan Wolverines football. Joe was very much known by his family for his ability to cook tasty and hearty meals and baked goods.

Joe is survived by his wife Deborah of Ann Arbor, MI, brother Daniel (Samantha) of Jacksonville, FL, daughter Jamie (Jason) Spenner of Berrien Springs, MI, sons Tyler of Paw Paw, MI and Chris (Lauren) of Wilmington, NC, and grandchildren Madison, Olivia, Eli, Ian, Elena and Matthew.

His son Joseph, mother Mary and father Francis preceded him in death.

At Joe's request, cremation has taken place and no services are being planned. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements by Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral Cremation Preneed Care. Personal messages for the family may be placed at www.farleyestesdowdle.com.

Gary Lynn Maxam

June 25, 1957 - August 24, 2024

Gary Lynn Maxam, went to be with the Lord on August 24, 2024.

Gary Lynn Maxam was born into the Harlen and Ruth Maxam family on June 25, 1957, where he lived his entire life. Graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University, Gary worked in an engineering capacity at several businesses including Bendix in South Bend, Armstrong in Three Rivers, and PRO-Tech Respirators in Buchanan. Gary eventually owned and ran the popular Stop-In Restaurant on Barron Lake in Niles, and later he worked for years at Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, MI.

Gary lived a gentle and fulfilling life while continually farming and helping to raise two sons of his devoted friend and housemate Stacy Kempton. He became a steadfast father to the beloved Cooper and Casey (currently serving in the US Navy). Surviving family includes brothers and sisters Garth (Barb), Sue, Gwen, Keith (Linda), Dwayne (Molly), a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and loving friends, especially Tom Rosselit and Char Grodi Molnar.

With a pleasantly adventurous spirit, Gary traveled with siblings/friend on outings, including snow skiing out west, sailing in the Caribbean and Lake Michigan, and water skiing at the Maxam family cottage on Long Lake near Three Rivers. In later years, Gary befriended a great number of the farm's resident cats, being literally blanketed with cats during his Hospice time at the Maxam farm, his favorite place of all.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are welcome by The Paws Cause Rescue (a cat rescue operated by family siblings) at 230 Johnsville Brookville Rd, Brookfield, Ohio 45309 or the Goshen Center for Cancer Care at 200 High Park Ave, Goshen, IN 46526 or Hospice of West Michigan in Gary's name.

A memorial Service will be held on October 3, 2024, at 2 p.m., at Smith's Chapel, 29858 Redfield St, Niles, MI, where Gary and the Maxam children went to Sunday School and vacation Bible School as children.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

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SUDOKU ANSWER
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Dowagiac seeks input on parks and recreation plan

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The City of Dowagiac is asking residents to help imagine the future of city parks and recreation opportunities as it prepares to update its parks and recreation plan.

A community parks and recreation plan provides a five-year framework for decisions regarding the establishment, development, and maintenance of recreational programs and facilities. Having the plan is also necessary to be eligible for certain state and federal grants.

As part of the planning process, the city is gathering public input. There is a survey available for residents and business owners to take. The survey asks what types of improvements residents would like to see, what recreational opportunities are most important, what parks residents visit most, and more.

Residents can take the survey online by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/DowagiacRecPlan or you can pick up a paper copy of the survey at Dowagiac City Hall, 241 S Front St, Dowagiac, MI 49047, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The survey must be completed by Sept. 20, 2024.

"We're seeing in some of the social media avenues that there are a lot of people who have a lot of different opinions on what should happen with the park system," Sleigh said. "Unfortunately it can be difficult for us to monitor and find constructive feedback through all of the varieties of different posts. It's really important for us for everybody to complete the online survey so we can harness that and give the community members an opportunity to provide direct input into the process."

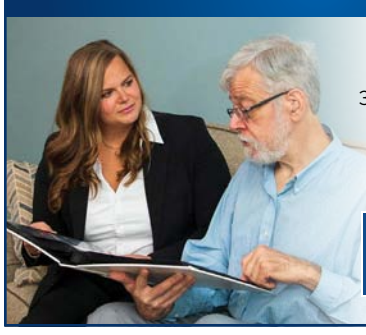
In addition to the survey, the city will be hosting a public input meeting on Tuesday, September 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Dowagiac Middle School Cafeteria. This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts on the future of recreational opportunities in the City. The city encourages residents to attend and participate in shaping the future of the community.

Highlights of the previous plan include the Elks Trail development and the establishment of Burling Park, maintaining current park systems to improve accessibility and creating public access to the flowing waters of the Dowagiac Creek at all locations where streets and flowing water intersect.

Sleigh said parks and recreation improve the quality of life for residents, help maintain and attract residents and businesses, promote healthy lifestyles, provide opportunities for social connections, protect natural features and the environment and improve property values.

"The reason the parks and public space system exists is to serve the community which is why we are encouraging as much public participation in this plan as possible," Sleigh said. "We're going to take that Community input very seriously."

Those with questions can contact Bekah Schrag with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission at (269) 925-1137 x1521 or at schragb@swmpc.org. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is assisting the city with the development of the plan.

Celebrate a life

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Michigan Gateway Community Foundation awards grants to local organizations

COMMUNITY REPORT

BUCHANAN — One area organization recently granted more than $98,000 to organizations in Berrien and Cass counties.

The Board of Trustees for Michigan Gateway Community Foundation have approved the granting of funds from the Foundation to several local programs:

•$25,000 from the Unity Fund to the City of Buchanan for the construction of a handicap accessible boat ramp on the Saint Joseph River.

•$25,000 from the Walter Schirmer Jr. Fund to be used for the Northstar Revitalization Plan to help with improved housing in the northside neighborhood of Buchanan.

•$8,000 from the Ann S. Cone Fund for Families & Youth in support of the Positive Parenting Program. This is provided by the Berrien County Health Department and supports families in the City of Niles.

•$3,221.38 from the Ann S. Cone Fund for Families & Youth to the Niles District Library for the purchase of a Playaway system for audio book access for their patrons.

•$5,000 capacity building grant awarded to Berrien County Cancer Services to build a new website and landing pages to assist cancer patients access their services.

•$3,000 from the George W. Romney Fund to Junior Achievement of Berrien & Cass County in support of Junior Achievement programming at Sam Adams Elementary School in Cassopolis.

•$7,660 from Buchanan Education Fund and the Buchanan Area Fund awarded to Buchanan Community Schools for executive leadership coaching.

•$2,235 from General Funds awarded to Cassopolis Band Boosters for the purchase of 4 bass drums.

•$9,210 capacity building grant from the Walter Schirmer Jr. Fund awarded to the Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan to support consulting work aimed at building a strategic plan, future staffing models and board training.

•$10,000 from the George & LaVonne Sullivan Endowment, Niles Area Fund, Cass Community Fund and Michigan Gateway Community Foundation General Fund to support the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber in their efforts to address population decline, job creation and the creation of marketing materials, landing pages and community tours to promote the region of South Berrien and Cass Counties.

Founded in 1978, Michigan Gateway Community Foundation serves southern Berrien County and Cass County Michigan. The Foundation was established with gifts from many citizens in amounts ranging from a few dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Only the income generated by the

investment of these gifts is used in grant making. A gift to the community funds, such as those from Niles, Buchanan, and Cass County, serve these communities in perpetuity.

The Foundation accepts grant proposals two times each year with submission dates of August 1, and February 1. Prompt consideration is given to all grant requests, with decisions usually available within one month. Each proposal will be evaluated by the Foundation for its potential value to the community and for the availability of funding resources.

For more information on Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, or to make a contribution that supports your community, contact Michael P. Rowland at 111 Days Avenue, Buchanan, MI 49107, visit www.mgcf.org, or call 269-695-3521.

NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Cass County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction on September 3rd, 2024.

The auction will be held online at **www.tax-sale.info** from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT. Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website, and assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the September 3rd auction, if any, will be re-offered online on September 26th, 2024. Please visit **www.tax-sale.info/faq** for additional details.

For more information and a list of the properties being sold, visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470. Sale listings *may* also be available at the county treasurer's office.

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WALK

Continued from page A1

agencies (including five in Cass County), as well as to provide services for immigrants and refugees at 58 centers across the country.

"They meet people's basic needs by supporting local food pantries, but they also do an incredible job of responding to natural disasters," said Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church Pastor Scott Scheel of CWS. "By supporting the Crop Walk, we know that when a hurricane or an earthquake strikes, they will be there immediately helping people with the recovery."

Churches and other groups pack kits that contain hygiene supplies, menstrual kits, cleanup buckets, school supplies, and blankets that can be distributed to those who lost homes.

Working with local villages and governments, CWS programs in impoverished areas look for sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty. They provide materials and classes to help families in Guatemala build gardens and greenhouses, solar powered desalination technology in Kenya for clean water, and materials to construct latrines for sanitation in Cambodia.

The CWS mission also serves immigrants and refugees who have had to leave their homes due to violence and persecution. Their programs look out for unaccompanied children to prevent human trafficking and women who need life skills.

"Even if my family and friends have enough, the Bible tells us to help others who are suffering," said Leigh Goyings, who has participated in Cass County's CROP Walk for 30 years.

Goins said that all are welcome to join, including dogs, to meet and to know that their walking and fundraising will help neighbors and people across the globe. For more information or to obtain sponsorship forms, contact edwardsburgpc@gmail.com or call (269) 663-6815.

STORE

Continued from page A1

will come next, Slaski will also look back fondly on her years owning a treasure trove for community members to discover.

"A lot of antiques that I've found and get excited about, I put them in the store and I get to see somebody else get excited about finding them. So I get to relive it all over again," she said. "It's always fun being on the hunt and finding good deals and finding things for the store. I have no regrets."

Dowagiac water customers who would like to schedule an appointment to check their service line can call (269) 782-8200 and customer service can help schedule an appointment.

ANNOUNCES

Continued from page A1

of communities working diligently to update our infrastructure."

3.The best way to eliminate unknowns is to use a filter and educate yourself about the best ways to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

"That includes simple things like cleaning your faucet aerators regularly," she said. "There's a wealth of information, including how to access free filter pitchers, on the City website."

Dowagiac water customers who would like to schedule an appointment to check their service line can call (269) 782-8200 and customer service can help schedule an appointment. Customers who complete the self-identification survey by Oct. 1, 2024, will receive a $5 rebate on their water bill.

Get Fit, Stay Fit
The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.
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Cassopolis, MI 49031
Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Dial-a-Ride closed on Labor Day

STAFF REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac Dial-A-Ride Transit, including DART On Demand, will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day Holiday.

Service will resume at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3.

SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

really, really good," he said. "I appreciated everything they did in preparation for the first day and the reason we had such a successful day was because of the leaders that we had in the district... I'm just here to support them and I'm going to try to help them out as best I can, but I feel strongly about the people that we have in our district that are working for us and leading our buildings and our kids.

"I'm going to continue to try to do that and be that support person for them and I understand that the responsibility falls on me if something happens and that I'll work with the admin team and the directors to try to fix whatever it happens to be."

One of Blomgren's goals as superintendent is to not reinvent the district but to hone in on the points of pride in the district. He noted that the district was able to reach contract agreements with both the teacher's union and DUESPA.

"It's the culture. It's the communication, it's our vision of what we hope to accomplish here together," he said. "It's not me telling people what to do, but to utilize everybody's experience and what they do best and their skill set and to drive the district forward. We're changing the culture, rebuilding trust and confidence in who we are and what we do and why we're here and I think that's slowly starting to take shape."

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Fall Lecture Series continues next week with Titanic author

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac Area History Museum's Fall Lecture Series continues Wednesday, September 4 at 6 p.m. with author Kelly Skwarcan presenting R.M.S. Titanic: Lasting Legacy, Enduring Impact.

When it comes to dominating the world's attention, the Titanic is without parallel. More than 100 years after the disaster, her impact on the modern world, maritime practices, and popular culture is stronger than ever. In the aftermath of the Titan implosion in summer 2023, it has become all the more imperative to consider the close parallels between the Titanic and Titan disasters.

Kelly Skwarcan, a Notre Dame graduate, Titanic researcher, speaker, and the author of Iron & Ice: The Full Tale of the Titanic, will make the case for the Titanic's particular relevance in 2024 and unpack the big-picture questions of "Why Titanic?"—"Why then, now, and in future?"

"This should be a great program for our community as there were several Titanic connections to Dowagiac," according to Museum Director Steve Arseneau. "There were five passengers bound for Dowagiac aboard the Titanic and all survived the disaster. Another connection is U.S. Senator Alden Smith—he was born and raised in Dowagiac and led the Senate investigation into the disaster."

The Lecture Series features one program per month on a variety of topics. Brooke Clement, interim director of the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum will talk about President Ford on October 2; and Tim Cook of Lake Michigan College will close out the series on November 6 with a program on President Theodore Roosevelt.

The program is free to museum members and $5 for non-members. Children under 18 are admitted free. Seating is on a first-come basis. Membership will be available at the museum. The museum is at the corner of Division and West Railroad streets. For more information, call the museum at 783-2560 or visit www.dowagiacmuseum.info.

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Dowagiac Daily News
Sports

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FOOTBALL

Buchanan football team aims for postseason success

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — After an offseason of preparation and anticipation, the Buchanan football team is ready to kick off the 2024 season.

"We're really excited," said Buchanan coach Mark Frey. "We got a lot of talent back and our guys have been working really hard this offseason. I think they've been itching for this game and fixing to get back hitting people, so we should hope for a good night."

"It feels great," added quarterback Jake Franklin. "Watching the other Indiana teams play last week just builds up so much energy and excitement coming into this week."

The Bucks finished the 2023 season with a 7-4 record and a loss to Constantine in the Division 6 District Championship game. Frey returns eight players on each side of the ball that either started or rotated last year.

"We're really excited about what that looks like," he said. "Our o-line is going to have some younger guys on it but they're not new to the game so they should be okay."

Franklin, an All-Region performer last season, returns aiming to take his game to the next level.

"I've been working on improving reading coverages quicker and making decisions quicker," he said. "Last year I feel like I made the little mistakes and fixing those little mistakes in the offseason really improved my game and it's going to make us as a team better."

"I think that's great when you have a returning quarterback, just because it's like having a coach out on the field when they do everything, they know the offense like the back of their hand," Frey said. "I think he's ready for this. He's been hungry, I think he was close to being all-state last year and so he wants to get that. He's been really driven."

Franklin will be handing the ball off to Gabe Tompkins and Leland Payne in the backfield. Tyler Baker returns as one of the area's top wide receivers.

"They're going to be the workhorses," Frey said said. "The nice thing is they can even flex out and catch the ball so we'll be utilizing them quite a bit and then we have pretty good experience at wide receiver in Tyler Baker."

On defense Frey will be relying on his back seven to step up while the young but promising defensive line develops.

"I like our back seven, they're all well-trained and back from last year," he said. "We've got some younger d-linemen but we're going to be able to make up for that with our speed in the back."

For Franklin and his team, hoisting a district championship trophy this season is the goal and Saugatuck is the first test.

"I want one of those," Franklin said. "Losing last year didn't feel great at all. For myself, I want to keep improving but the main goal I'm focused on is with my team winning a district championship. There's nothing better than winning with your team… I feel like if we just do our jobs and not try to do our own thing, stay composed and really just focus on our job and go play-by-play and not focus on the next quarter, I think we'll do fine."

The Bucks hosted Saugatuck Thursday night in the season opener. The recap of that game can be found online at leaderpub.com and will be in the Sept. 7 print edition of the newspaper.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Buchanan football team huddles together during a recent practice.

Murphy makes Tennessee 53-man roster

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Murphy

NASHVILLE — Former Dowagiac and Ferris State University standout Caleb Murphy has once again made the 53-man roster for the Tennessee Titans.

Signing with Tennessee as an undrafted free agent, Murphy appeared in three regular season games last year and tallied two tackles. This preseason, Murphy has tallied five tackles including a three-tackle performance Sunday at New Orleans.

Murphy will be suiting up for his second coaching staff in as many seasons as first-time head coach Brian Callahan was hired to replace Mike Vrabel, who was fired following an 11-6 season.

Tennessee will open the 2024 season on the road in Chicago against the Bears on Sept. 8. The Titans will play at Detroit Oct. 27.

VOLLEYBALL

CASSOPOLIS
VOLLEYBALL BESTS BRANDYWINE 3-1

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The Cassopolis volleyball team earned a road win against Brandywine Monday.

The Rangers defeated the Bobcats 25-18, 19-25, 25-23, 25-21 to pick up their first win of the season.

"I thought they played really hard," said Cassopolis Assistant Athletic Director Heidi Hawryskow, who filled in for head coach Kaisha Martin. "They didn't give up even though sometimes it seemed like they wanted to. I think it's a great start to the season."

Jordan Heiman led the Rangers with 10 kills and team captain Mackenzie Boyer added five. Janayla Franklin had four aces and five kills.

"I think that Boyer does a really good job of building the team together," Hawryskow said. "Hyman is just a beast at hitting. Our setter Tori Burks just plays the ball really well, and gets it to her hitters."

Brandywine head coach James Ragosta was impressed with the way his young team battled.

"Cass does a really good job. They've got some good hitters," he said. "They're just a really good team this year, hats off to them. We had a lot of pluses – I thought we played the net really good defensively, which has been one of our stronger points."

Adellyn Drotoz had seven kills and 22 digs and Layla Covington finished with seven kills and 14 digs while Kaegan VanSandt added two kills and 23 digs and Macy Pellow four kills and 15 digs.

Ragosta has been impressed with Drotoz's leadership amidst this season. Drotoz is the team's lone senior this year.

"She brings a tremendous amount to the group just being on the court, It's a very unique situation when you have one returning varsity player on varsity.We're in a very unique situation and she's just trying to help and be encouraging and when things don't go how we want it, she's still being encouraging. I love having her around the team and she definitely helps the girls more than they even know."

Brandywine faces Our Lady of The Lake at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph. Next up for Cassopolis is Centreville at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Buchanan.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

VOLLEYBALL

KELLY SWEENEY | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Buchanan volleyball sweeps Centreville

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — Host Buchanan improved to 7-0 by sweeping Cassopolis, Saugatuck and Centreville at its quad Wednesday.

The Bucks defeated Saugatuck 25-6 and 25-12, Cassopolis 25-12 and 25-13, as well as Centreville 25-9 and 25-15.

Kills: Alyssa Carson 26, Chloe Aalfs 20, Kenzie Boller 8, Izzy Tibbles 8

Assists: Sophia Bachman 61

Digs: Emily Holt 14, Finley Kehoe 11, Chloe Aalfs 12, Sophia Bachman 8, Izzy Tibbles 5, Alyssa Carson 5

Assisted blocks: Alyssa Carson 6, Sophia Bachman 3

FOOTBALL

‘Bigger, stronger, faster’: Niles football team to make its mark

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Scot Shaw addresses the football team at a recent practice.

NILES — The sound of helmets crashing and whistles blowing has filled the air around Vikings Stadium this week as the Niles football team prepares to start the 2024 season.

“It's good to get back at it,” said Head Coach Scot Shaw. “It's good to be in a game week when you can put together a game plan instead of trying to get everything organized. Now it's for a purpose, so it's been a good week.”

Last year, the Vikings burst onto the scene with a 10-2 record that ended with a loss to Portland in the Division 4 Regional Final. According to Shaw, his team has embraced becoming the “hunted” heading into this season as it doesn’t change their quest for a championship.

“I think we're okay with it,” he said. “Regardless of what people think of us, we can't change it, we can only add to it. If you're competitive and you want championships, that's where you’ve got to be. You’ve got to be in front of everybody's eyes.”

Senior Talen Bennett steps in to replace Talon Brawley at quarterback. Bennett will play behind an offensive line that returns most of its starters from last year’s unit. Seniors Paul Hess and Sam Rucker return as two of the area’s top playmakers along with wide receiver Brenden Olsen.

“Talon Bennett is doing a great job at quarterback,” Shaw said. “We haven't lost a step there and our backs are still fast. Defensively we'll see if we can hold up up front against bigger teams. We're not undersized, but we're not huge and we weren't last year either. Hopefully we fly to the ball and can make stops and turn the ball around and give it back to our offense because I think we can score.”

For Shaw, the offensive line was the strength of a Vikings offense that averaged 46.5 points per game. Having the majority of that unit return has been a boon for the team.

“When we started in June, when we wanted to walk through a formation, our kids knew right where to go, who they had and all that kind of stuff. That's good for us in the sense that their confidence level is higher when they know what they're doing.”

Shaw said the program is starting to reap the benefits of fielding a freshmen, junior varsity and varsity team for the first time in his tenure at Niles.

“Now that we're gonna have three teams, (the consistency) is going to happen year after year because they're doing the same thing we're doing,” Shaw said. “It’s what a program's supposed to be.”

For Shaw, the sky is the limit for this year’s group and St. Joseph was the first test.

“We tell these guys that last year's success was last year's team,” Shaw said. “This team has to make its own success and it'll be this year's seniors and I truly believe that. The team personality is a little bit different – we're a little bit quieter but that doesn't mean that we're not gonna be as fast or as excited or anything like that. We have a quieter demeanor but I think that we're bigger, we're stronger and just as fast as or maybe even faster than we were last year.”

The Vikings traveled to St. Joseph Friday night to take on the Bears in the season opener. The recap of that game can be found online at leaderpub.com and will be in the Sept. 7 print edition of the newspaper.

VOLLEYBALL

Niles volleyball sweeps Dowagiac, Lakeshore

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

KELLY SWEENEY | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

DOWAGIAC — The Niles volleyball team swept Dowagiac and Lakeshore at its tri-match Tuesday.

The match was moved to Dowagiac due to excessive heat and the fact that its gym is air conditioned.

Complete results for the Vikings were unavailable at press time.

Niiles defeated the Chieftains 25-8 and 25-10, while Dowagiac fell to the Lancers 25-17 and 25-19.

"After our match with Lakeshore we decided that running a 6-2 was not working for our team and going into the Niles game we transitioned into a 5-1," said Dowagiac Coach Amber Todd. "Playing against these teams we have to continue to cut back on unforced errors and hitting negative as a team. I thought our serving percentage as a team was solid and we will continue to focus on the little goals so we can improve in every statistical category. Once we cut back on unforced errors and get our team hitting percentage positive we will be a dominant team."

Kills: Hanah McCuddy 1, Ava Nate 2, Riley Todd 2, Marlie Carpenter 4, Tessa Deering 5, Brianna Campbell 3, Laniyah Moss 2

Aces: Hanah McCuddy 1, Zabrina Shivers 2, Tessa Deering 2

Assists: Hanah McCuddy 21, Claire Hess 3, Tessa Deering 1

Digs: Hanah McCuddy 6, Ava Nate 1, Riley Todd 1, Emerson Kruger 1, Claire Hess 6

Tatiyana Lara 6, Marlie Carpenter 3, Zabrina Shivers 15, Tessa Deering 9, Brenna Mott 4

Blocks: Riley Todd 1, Ava Nate 1, Marlie Carpenter 3, Tessa Deering 2

VOLLEYBALL

SMC volleyball goes 4-1 at the OWT for third straight year

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

Rockford, Ill. — For the third straight year, the Southwestern Michigan College volleyball team came away from the Opening Weekend Tournament with only one loss.

Tne Roadrunners went 2-0 on the final day of the tournament Sunday.

The Roadrunners defeated RCTC 25-12, 25-20, 25-16 and Oakton 25-17, 25-19, 25-15.

"This is always a great tournament for us to start the season with every year; we get six matches to work together as a team, gel, and figure out our strengths and weaknesses before we head into conference play" said SMC Coach Jenny Nate. "We are excited that we are off to a great start to the season and did a fantastic job playing clean, smart ball, and look forward to hitting the gym this week after film analysis and a rest day in order to prepare for a tough Owens Tournament facing ranked teams."

The Roadrunners are now 5-1 on the season.

Leading scorers: Talan Hiemstra 31 points, 10 aces, Gia Jania 18 points, 5 aces, Josie West 13 points, 1 ace, Ryli Burks 11 points, 3 aces, Cadence Knight 8 points, 4 aces, Anna Johnson 7 points, 2 aces, Reese Maas 2 points, Bri Russell 1 point

Kills: Josie West 19, Ryli Burks 15, Abi Marquis 11, Kallie Solloway 10, Gia Jania 9, Talan Hiemstra 5

Blocks: Gia Jania 4, Talan Hiemstra 3, Abi Marquis 2, Josie West 1, Kallie Solloway 1, Ryli Burks 1

Digs: Cadence Knight 37, Josie West 16, Ryli Burks 15, Amanda Jones 13, Anna Johnson 11, Abi Marquis 8, Gia Jania 6, Talan Hiemstra 6, Kallie Solloway 4, Reese Maas 3, Bri Russell 2

Assists: Anna Johnson 38, Ryli Burks 15

Classifieds Marketplace

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217 N. Fourth St.
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 591-6105

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Employment

Job Opportunities

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Please submit your resume to Oronoko Charter Township Clerk. PO Box 214, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; clerk@oronokotownship.org.

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Job Opportunities

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, Notre Dame is an affirmative action/equal opportunity University encouraging diversity.

Auctions & Sales

Auctions

Estate Auction
Saturday
September 14th, 2024
at: 10:30 am
To settle the
Estate of Kenneth Stephens
Located at:
15738 Crussmeyer Drive
Union, Michigan
(Cass County)
3 bedroom 2 bath home
on 9 plus acres
Detached Garage with
2 pole barns
Corner lot with lots of frontage
Open house inspections:
Wednesday, Sept. 4th 4 to 6 pm
And Sunday sept. 8th 1 to 4 pm
Or by appointment.
Personal property selling:
John Deere 5065E
tractor w/loader
Less than 100 hours,
(3) X-mark Mowers,
X-mark & Toro commercial
walk behind mowers;
2004 ford F350 w/
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trailers, shop tools,
Selection of baseball
& sports cards;
Full listing go to:
www.hastyauction.com

Garage Sales

Multi Family Garage Sale
25652 MARSELLUS HWY
DOWAGIAC,
Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1 9am-5pm
Lots of toys from a daycare, home decor, antiques, and much more.

Merchandise

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Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423

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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Notices

General Notices

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Community Events

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

Lost & Found

STOLEN (Borrowed)
Utility Trailer
Would the person/persons who stole (borrowed) the black, rear gated, 8x12ft utility trailer from a residence on Twin Lakes Road, on/about July 13th please return our trailer or call us to pick it up (no questions asked) in good shape. Trailer is used by an elderly, handicapped couple for primarily yard work, short trips for neighbors use, etc. Cannot afford another trailer and our insurance company denied our claim to reimburse us.
Please Call 269-782-6057

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For more information, contact Sheryl DeRyder, Manager
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269-445-8040
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Miscellaneous Services

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Hartley Online Auction. Bidding open. Mahindra tractor, Honda Big Red, tools, boats, pottery, ammo, sporting, knives, much more! Bid anywhere anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com. Selling? Call John Peck 989-426-8061. Offices Charlotte & Gladwin.

Fick Online Petroliana Estate Auction. Bidding open. REO F-20 truck, signs, Petroliana memorabilia, Dixie gas sign, Farm items. Excellent sale! Bid anywhere anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com.

Miscellaneous Services

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Miscellaneous Services

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROLLS FOR MAGICIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, DEWEY LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, and LITTLE CROOKED WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

September 11th, 2024
at 6:30pm
Township of Silver Creek
Cass County, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor and Assessor have prepared and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll covering all properties within the Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs as shown on the plans and estimate of costs on file with the Township Clerk.
The roll for **Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $28,963.72 with a proposed special assessment of up to $67.91 per occupied unit. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.
The roll for **Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $22,450.30 with a proposed special assessment of up to $97.61 per unit. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.
The roll for **Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $5,179.02 with a proposed special assessment of up to $87.78 per parcel. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. After the public hearing, the Township Board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended. The roll may be examined by contacting the Township Clerk at (269) 424-3025 x4 or via email at silvercreek@sisterlakescable.com during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. Please also note that an owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment in writing, or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in that event, personal appearance shall not be required. The owners or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in writing at or before the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.
Silver Creek Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.
After the public hearing, the township board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide for payment of special assessments with interest; and may provide by resolution for such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to special assessments for **Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, and the Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District.**
All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing to submit comments.

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
Jessica Honn, Clerk
P.O. Box 464
32764 Dixon Street
Dowagiac, MI
(269) 424-3025 x4
silvercreek@sisterlakescable.com

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, 2024
MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF DOWAGIAC BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN AMENDMENT 234-236 S. FRONT STREET, CITY OF DOWAGIAC CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Dowagiac City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, the 9th day of September, 2024, at approximately 7:00 pm, Eastern Daylight time held at the Municipal Building, 241 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047 to receive public comment on a Brownfield Plan Amendment (the "Plan") to include therein the property located at 234-236 S. Front Street, City of Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan. The following legal parcels are included in the "eligible property":
- Parcel IDs # 14-160-200-072-00 & 14-160-200-067-00
The project consists of two commercially developed parcels of property in the City of Dowagiac. The project will involve the redevelopment of the existing structure into a mix-used development with commercial space on the first floor, and 10 attainable housing units above. Primary eligible activities include environmental assessment activities, lead and asbestos abatement, demolition, and interest expense.
The site meets the definition of a "functionally obsolete" as defined by 1996 PA 381, MCL 125.2652. As such, the property is an "eligible property" under Act 381.
The Brownfield Plan Amendment, which includes a site map and legal description of the parcel, is available for public inspection at the City's Municipal Building. All aspects of the plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.
FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from Kevin Anderson at KAnderson@dowagiac.org or 269-783-2530.
THIS NOTICE is given by order of the City of Dowagiac, Michigan.
Amanda Sleigh
Assistant City Manager
City of Dowagiac

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 31, 2024
HEARING 09.09.24

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on September 11, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ruth M. Serafini, a married woman and Aurelio Serafini, her husband, signing to waive his homestead rights to the lien of this mortgage
Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NARRE Titling Trust
Date of Mortgage: October 20, 2006
Date of Mortgage Recording: November 6, 2006
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $708,618.48
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Calvin, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 32 and 33, Diamond View Subdivision, as recorded in Liber 1-H, Page 352 of Plats, Cass County Records.
Common street address (if any): 62634 Diamond View Dr, Cassopolis, MI 49031-9316
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 10, 2024
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1537250
(08-10)(08-31)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2024
1537250 SERAFINI

LEGAL NOTICE

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, September 18, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert G Harris and Connie Harris, Husband and Wife to Fifth Third Bank, National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank, Mortgagee, dated March 14, 2018, and recorded on March 28, 2018, in Liber 1137, Page 914, Cass County Records, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-One and 78/100 ($52,591.78) including interest at the rate of 4.64000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Ontwa, Cass County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot number Twenty-Four in J.S. Wilkinson`s Addition to the Village of Edwardsburg, according to the recorded Plat thereof, recorded in Liber 1E of Plats, Page 445. Commonly known as: 26887 WILKINSON ST, EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: August 17, 2024 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00435-1
(08-17)(09-07)

Dowagiac Daily News: Aug. 17, 24, 31 and Sept. 7, 2024
1537821 HARRIS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on October 30, 2024. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Jacklyn K. Neel to One Reverse Mortgage, LLC dated December 29, 2018 and recorded January 8, 2019 in Liber 1149 at Page 2126, Cass County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $40,763.44. Said premises are located in Cass County, Michigan and are described as: Tax Id Number(s): 14-080-025-001-00 Land situated In the Township of Newberg in the County of Cass in the State of MI COMMENCING SOUTH 605.7 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 25; THENCE WEST 208.71 FEET; THENCE NORTH 115.7 FEET; THENCE WEST 60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 312.58 FEET; THENCE EAST 268.71 FEET TO THE BEGINNING, SECTION 25, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST. Commonly known as: 60142 Corey Lake Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093-8234 Said property is commonly known as 60142 Corey Lake Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: August 14, 2024 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 24-21533
(08-24)(09-14)

Dowagiac Daily News: Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7 and 14, 2024
1538235 NEEL

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on October 02, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Heather E ONeill, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 14, 2013 Recorded on March 28, 2013, Liber 1057, on Page 734, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on July 18, 2013, Liber 1063, on Page 1343, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on April 09, 2019 in Liber 1152, on Page 2586 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred and 03/100 Dollars ($35,900.03) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 31, Fairfield Acres, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1-H of Plats, page 381, Cass County records. Commonly known as 602 Sunnyside Dr, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1538473
(08-24)(09-14)

Dowagiac Daily News: Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7 and 14, 2024
1538743 ONEILL

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City of Dowagiac Parks & Recreation Public Input Meeting
THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC Creating Tomorrow
The City of Dowagiac is updating their Parks and Open Space Plan. Join us at the public input meeting to share your thoughts on recreational opportunities, accessibility, and parks in the City.
SCAN ME
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Dowagiac Middle School Cafeteria
57072 Riverside Dr
Dowagiac, MI 49047
Your opinion matters!
If you are unable to attend, please take the survey using the QR code above or the link below:
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Survey deadline: September 20, 2024

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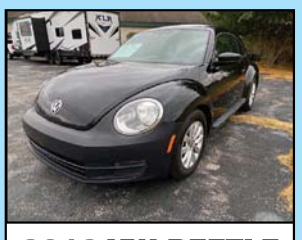

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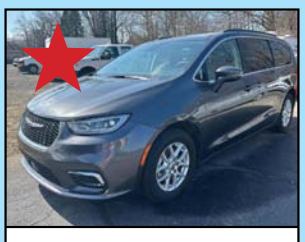

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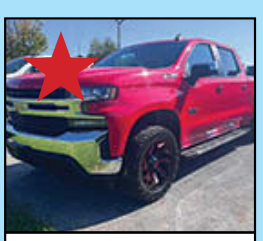

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